



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AUTHORIZES LETHAL CONTROL OF GRAY WOLVES NEAR SALMON, IDAHO

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the lethal removal of two gray wolves west of Salmon, Idaho, yesterday. The wolves, an uncollared sub-adult male and the alpha female (B-46), were members of the Jureano Pack. Both animals were shot from a helicopter by USDA Wildlife Services, according to the Service's Idaho wolf recovery coordinator, Carter Niemeyer.

Lethal control was ordered in response to confirmed depredations by the Jureano Pack in this area. Seven domestic calf kills across several Salmon private landowners' properties have been documented by wolf recovery specialists since mid-June.

The Service also issued a private landowner lethal control permit in mid-September after livestock depredation by members of the Jureano Pack were confirmed. The 45-day permit will remain valid until the livestock are moved from the ranch.

Niemeyer noted that the Service, Wildlife Services, and the Nez Perce Tribe had exhausted all reasonable efforts to use non-lethal means to discourage chronic depredation incidents. Niemeyer stated, "The Jureano wolf pack has demonstrated habituated behavior toward killing domestic livestock in this area. Further confirmed depredations by this pack will result in incremental removal of additional pack members."

Various non-lethal efforts to control the Jureano Pack were implemented this summer. One non-lethal method, the use of fladry, (twine with 3" X 20" red ribbon spaced every 18" and placed around fence perimeters), was used to prevent depredations on a private ranch that the wolves frequented. The several-mile fladry barrier was successful in preventing the wolves from depredating for about two months; however, this method ultimately proved not to prevent the Jureano Pack from livestock depredation on the ranch.

Wolves in Idaho continue to make progress toward recovery despite the occasional implementation of lethal control measures. About two dozen wolves have been killed as a result of livestock depredation since the 1995 reintroduction of 35 gray wolves into the Idaho nonessential, experimental area. The yearly count for 2002 will be completed in December, but it is estimated that Idaho currently has about 260 individuals.

— FWS —

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses nearly 540 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas.

It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.